Pradesh on August 29, 1996 and thereafter administrative officers received directions from the Central Government to implement this scheme immediately.

(b) if so, the details of outline and the total expenditure to be incurred on this scheme, and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugarated the National Slum Development Programme on 25th August, 1996 at Kanpur. The guidelines in this regard will be issued shortly.

(b) The Programme aims at development of slums. The total Central outlay for 1996-97 for this scheme is Rs. 250 crores.

(c) Since slum development is an on-going scheme, no such time limit can be fixed.

Dwelling Unit to Homeless

910. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) while addressing a function in New Delhi on the World Habitat Day to the effect that the right to own a descent dwelling should be made a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the Government's response to this demand indicating the estimated number of dwelling units required in rural areas to provide a dwelling unit each family without an abode; and

(c) the estimated number of persons without any abode in rural areas at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan and at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government has drawn up an Action Plan to mitigate rural housing shortage in a time bound manner.

According to 1991 Census, rural housing shortage in India at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan was 13.72 million houses consisting of 3.41 million household without houses and 10.31 million living in unserviceable houses. The present rural housing shortage is estimated to be of the order of about 17 million houses consisting of about 6.7 million households without houses and about 10.3 million households living in unserviceable house.

[Translation]

Prevention of Soil Erosion/Barren Land

911. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been allotted to the 'task force' or para Military forces in Madhya Pradesh during the period from 1992 to September, 1996 to prevent barren land and soil erosion and the amount provided to them by the Central Government for the purpose;

(b) whether the Government propose to solve the problem of the villagers arisen due to imposing a ban on cattle grazing and cutting fodder from the land; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) With the approval of Ministry of Defence, the Department of Wastelands Development has raised a Force of 300 ex-servicemen for development of degraded ravines of Chambal in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh under the command of Territorial Army Directorate. Land for development by the said Force was to be provided by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the major portion of funds for development of the same were to be provided by the Central Government. The land was to be made available to the Wasteland Development Task Force only for regeneration of wastelands through afforestation including the following activities:

- in-situ soil and moisture conservation;
- plantation;
- maintenance of plantation
- protection.

After completion of the project, the developed land is to be handed over to the State Government/local Panchayats for protection and for providing the benefit of usufructs etc. to the local population. The State Government has made available about 1200 hectares of land for development by the said Force over a period of 3 years and so far the Central Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 76 lakhs on it.

(b) and (c). Area where plantation has been/is being done has been closed to grazing for a limited period to protect the plantations done. The Wasteland